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In the antiphon itself, the clause 'quæ ex ore altissimi prodiisti' is based on *Ecclus.* 24. 5: 'Ego ex ore altissimi prodii, primogenita ante omnem creaturam.' The curious fact is that Cynewulf apparently uses not the part which appears in the antiphon but the last four words of the verse. His lines are as follows (348-354):

Ēalā þū hālga heofona Dryhten,  
þū mid Fæder þinne gefyrn wære  
efenwesende in þām æþelan hām.  
Næs ænig þū giet engel geworden,  
nā þæs miclan mægenþrymnes nān  
ðe in roderum ūp rice biwitiġað,  
þeodnes þryðgesteald ond his þegnunga,—

Here it seems probable that Cynewulf has seized on the words 'primogenita ante omnem creaturam' and used them as a basis for poetic comment on his favorite doctrine of the eternal co-existence of the Son with the Father 'in that noble abode, ere yet any angel was created nor any of the heavenly host.' It is quite in keeping with Cynewulf's method that he should thus depart from the content of the antiphon to follow up a theme in which he was especially interested.

Lines 355-6

þā þū ærest wære mid þone ecan Frēan  
sylf settende þās eīdan geœcaft,  
brāde brytengrundas—

are perhaps a reminiscence of the 'fortiter suaviterque disponens omnia' of the antiphon, though the resemblance here is more remote.

Now it is necessary to dispose of lines 372-4:

ne lata tō lange. Oym nū, hælepa Oynīng;  
þæt þū ūs āhredde. Ūs is lissa þearf,—

This passage resembles, as has already been mentioned, the 'veni ad liberandum nos, jam noli tardare,' which is the petition in *O Radix*. But at the head of the list of the Greater Antiphons in the Sarum Use (and hence immediately preceding *O Sapientia*, the first of the group), appears this versicle and response:

Festina, ne tardaveris, Domine: et libera  
populum tuum. Veni, Domine, et noli tardare:  
relaxa facinora plebi tuæ.

This versicle, the gloss states, is always sung before the antiphon (ad initium hujus antiphonæ). The association in Cynewulf's mind of the versicle

with *O Sapientia* is thus natural and almost inevitable; and the similarity between his words and the words of the versicle is quite evident.

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#### CUMBERLAND'S EDITION OF CHAUCER.

To the Editors of *Mod. Lang. Notes*.

SIRS:—In *Chaucer, a Bibliographical Manual*, Miss Eleanor P. Hammond describes an edition of Chaucer published by John Cumberland. A copy of this edition in the Yale University Library corresponds in every detail to that described by Miss Hammond. She dates the edition prior to Singer's edition of 1822; but a footnote on page 18 of the first volume of Cumberland's edition is as follows: "See Bowring's translations of German epigrams—*London Magazine*, 1824." The date of this edition must therefore be after 1824 instead of before 1822. In 1826, when he began to publish the *British Theatre*, Cumberland was at 19 Ludgate Hill, and remained there until August 1, 1828, when he moved to 2 Cumberland Terrace. In March, 1829, he was at 6 Brecknock Place, where he stayed until March 1, 1831, when he again moved to 2 Cumberland Terrace, and remained there. The edition of Chaucer must have been issued either between August 1, 1828 and March, 1829, or after 1831, unless we can surmise that between 1824-26 he was at 2 Cumberland Terrace, and already engaged in publishing.

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#### HAMLET.

To the Editors of *Mod. Lang. Notes*.

SIRS:—Your February number (p. 41) contains a perfectly valid criticism of a note in the Porter and Clarke edition of *Hamlet* explaining the line,

"A little more than kin, and less than kind."

The critic's own explanation, however, leaves much to be desired. The context itself would seem to be sufficient to make the meaning clear.

Moreover, in Karl Elze's edition of *Hamlet*, Leipzig, 1857, p. 120, the question is settled for good and all. He writes :—

“ ‘Kin’ bedeutet die Verwandtschaft ausserhalb der Familie, die Vetterschaft ; ‘kind’ die Art, das Geschlecht, die Blutverwandtschaft, Familie, und dann die zur Fortpflanzung und Erhaltung des Geschlechtes erforderliche sittliche Ordnung. Vielleicht in keinem englischen Schriftwerk kommt ‘kind’ so häufig und in so unzweideutigem Sinne vor, als in *The Tragedie of Gorboduc*. ”

Following this note are copious examples to illustrate the author's statement. I have counted twenty-three cases of the occurrence of ‘kind’ in *Gorboduc*, often in antithesis to ‘kin,’ and almost always with the unmistakable sense of the immediate family relationship. I subjoin in addition some examples of ‘kin’ in antithesis to expressions synonymous with ‘kind’ :

“Great is the love which nature doth inforce  
From kin to kin, but most from sire to sonne.”  
*Misfortunes of Arthur*, III, i, 41–42.  
“Kin or sonne.” *Ib.*, 46 and 48.

Arthur says of Mordred, who is “Nephew, Sonne, or both,”

“My blood and kinred doubled in his birth,  
Inspires a mixt, and twice descending love.”  
*Id.*, v, i, 91.

And for ‘kind,’ in *The Birth of Merlin*, v, i, where Merlin rescues his mother from the devil, he says :

“Nature and kind to her commands my duty ;  
The part that you begot was against kind.  
So all I owe to you is to be unkind.”  
*Doubtful Plays of William Shakespeare*,  
Tauchnitz, p. 347.

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## BRIEF MENTION.

### A GOETHE LIBRARY.

*Verzeichnis einer Goethe-Bibliothek* von FRIEDRICH MEYER (xii and 707 pp., 8vo.). Leipzig : Dyk'sche Buchhandlung, 1908.

We have before us a large volume, enumer-

ating 7683 publications, by or on Goethe. The list mentions first a facsimile of the “Ordentliche Wöchentliche Frankfurter Tag- und Anzeigungsnachrichten” of Sept. 2, 1749, containing the announcement of Goethe's birth. The last book mentioned is volume 28 of the *Goethe-Jahrbuch* of 1907.

Mr. Meyer, who is a bookseller in Leipzig, actually possesses all publications mentioned in the catalogue, except a few ones marked with asterisks. To this collection belong about 5000 articles from newspapers and periodicals which are not listed in the catalogue.

Meyer's Goethe-Bibliothek is with the sole exception of the famous Goethe-Library in Weimar the most complete collection of Goethe books in the world, and it would be impossible to duplicate it. It contains practically everything pertaining to text criticism and has all first editions with only one exception, i. e., *Von deutscher Baukunst D. M. Erwin a Steinbach*. Very complete is the collection of Goethe's contributions to periodicals and almanacs. The polemic writings of young Goethe and almost the entire literature concerning Werther's *Leiden* and the *Xenien* are at hand.

Goethe's administrative bulletins which he had to issue to his subordinate officials in the Grand Duchy of Weimar are to be found here. Their circulation has, of course, been always very limited.

Excellent bibliographical knowledge and great persistency in collecting rare books are evidently shown by Mr. Meyer. His work is not only of high credit to German industry but also shows the high educational standard which is to be found among German booksellers.

It is very much to be desired that a collection like this should be bought by some American Institution. No similar opportunity will occur, ever again. The author of this article is willing to give any other information on Meyer's Goethe-Bibliothek, which he may be able to supply.

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